



Coronavirus update

A Message from Dan Smith, CEO

March 21, 2020

Dear Valued Members, Guests and Supportive Community,

Our leadership team at the Keene Family YMCA continues to assess the impact of COVID-19 on our community and how we are uniquely positioned to respond in support of our community. Moving forward, we are announcing the following updates to our closure:

1. Effective Monday, March 23, our YMCA childcare and school-age care will remain open only for the families of first-responders, medical teams and operation-critical front-line workers responding to the COVID-19 crisis. We will accept new students to these programs whose families are working to respond to our community's emergency and care needs amid the crisis. In the meantime, we urge current families to provide care of their children in the safety of their own homes as this is the safest solution. Your spots in the Y program are secure when we reopen.
2. We are extending our YMCA's closure to April 6, when we will reassess our ability to open; this includes the immediate suspension of our outdoor exercise programs for 10 people or fewer.

In light of these changes, we are also happy to share with you the activities we are adding thanks to the continued support of your membership for the broader mission to our community.

1. We are building a robust online exercise-class program and encourage you to join these programs for physical exercise and as a means to remain socially connected.
2. On Monday, March 23, we will actively begin calling YMCA members with special attention to our seniors for wellness checks. We will also offer errand support for those who need it.
3. We are partnering with the Red Cross to host two blood drives at our Y in response to a growing shortage brought about by the health crisis. These drives are on March 26 and April 6.
4. We have offered our facility to Cheshire Medical Center as a bed location for patients fighting the COVID-19 virus in the event that their facilities become overrun. We should note our appreciation to the City of Keene for making our local Recreation Center the first alternative for these needs.
5. We will be adding other mental health-related responses aimed at curtailing feelings of social isolation. This will include reading stories online to our childcare children, possible birthday surprises, and other creative initiatives.

We ask that you join us in this effort; our Y needs your support through this crisis to remain financially viable and available to the community for the long term.

Continuing your uninterrupted membership through this time and/or donating to our Annual Campaign will help us continue to respond during this time of crisis. We are counting on your support and partnership to help to steer our Y and community through this daunting challenge.

For more than 130 years, the Keene Family YMCA has always been an organization that walked in the direction of the challenge. Today, along with our community at large, we aim to step up and act consistently with our legacy in that regard.

Please stay safe and positive.

Dan Smith, CEO